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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7024

BILL NUMBER: HB 1004

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 16, 2012

BILL AMENDED: Feb 13, 2012

SUBJECT: Various Election Law Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Richardson

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Landske

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Municipal Election Ballots*- The bill provides that if there is a contested election for any office of a municipality, all nominees for each office must be shown on the ballot. The bill authorizes a county election board (CEB) to provide by resolution adopted by a unanimous vote of the members of the CEB, that an election for a municipal office not be held if there is no contest for the office. The bill provides that such a resolution expires January 1 of the year immediately following its adoption. The bill authorizes a CEB to provide by resolution adopted by a unanimous vote of the members of the CEB, that a municipal election may be limited to legislative body districts of the municipality where there are contests for election of members of the municipal legislative body if there are no contested offices to be elected by all the voters of the municipality.

Recoding of Information for Statewide Voter Registration List- The bill requires that a circuit court clerk record certain information from an application for an absentee ballot in the statewide voter registration list.

Candidate Vacancy Caucus- The bill provides that if a caucus called to fill a candidate vacancy or a vacancy in certain local offices does not obtain a quorum, the applicable political party county chairman or state chairman is required to fill the vacancy.

Reference Correction- The bill corrects a reference to the terms of office of school board members to conform the law to the amendments made during the 2011 session that provide that all elected school board members are elected at a general election. (This provision's effective date is upon passage.) The bill also makes a technical correction.

Effective Date: Upon passage; January 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Municipal Election Ballots-* County election boards would be able, by unanimous vote, to hold municipal elections only in the district covered by a contested legislative body office. Such a measure could reduce the expenditures that a municipal wide election would require. A CEB resolution could be adopted which would keep uncontested offices off the ballot. This provision would also reduce ballot expenditures.

(Revised) *Recoding of Information for Statewide Voter Registration List-* Generally, most county clerks already comply with this provision. However, for those clerks that do not, there could be some additional administrative time needed to provide the information in the format required by the statewide voter registration list.

Background Information- Expenses to run an election include: precinct election board per diem, rental of a facility for polling (if necessary), and/or voting equipment (if necessary.)

The following table shows the precinct election officers in a precinct election board as provided by law. The table also includes the average pay per election by each office:

Type of Officer	Number	Average Pay Per Election*
Inspector	1	\$129
Judge	2	\$97
Poll Clerk**	2	\$94
Sheriff**	2	\$106
Asst. Poll Clerk**	2	\$94
*Based on a survey of all counties with 57 responding. **May be eliminated by resolution of entire county election board.		

Certain counties pay the judge of the party opposite of the inspector more than the judge of the inspector's party. The additional pay compensates extra duties of the opposite party judge, who accompanies the inspector to drop off the election ballots and canvases after the polls close to the county election board office. Many counties are not able to fill every position and several do not have assistant poll clerks. Additionally, counties may by resolution of the entire election board, discontinue sheriff and poll clerk appointments. Very few counties in the survey had assistant poll clerks or sheriffs.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Municipalities, county election boards, circuit court clerks.

Information Sources: Counties responding to an LSA survey on precinct election officer compensation.

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